

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-03 PCH-02 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 SES-02 SSO-00 INRE-00
/099 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RL
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. KORN
NEA/ARN - MR. HOWELL
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----034576 310157Z /64

O R 302302Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
DOD
USICA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 30

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 30,
1978. SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS KENNETH BROWN.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE VARIETY OF REPORTS
ABOUT POSSIBLE PROPOSALS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, PARTICULARLY
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THOSE INVOLVING AMERICAN PERSONNEL?

A. I ASSUME THAT YOU MAY BE ASKING A QUESTION WHICH WAS
IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPORT THAT JODY POWELL HAD
SAID THAT THIS WAS AN OPTION THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING.
ALL I HAVE FOR YOU ON THAT IS THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT
JODY HAS ISSUED A SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT ON THAT. AND,
THEREFORE, SINCE THE ORIGINAL SPECULATION DID ARISE
FROM THAT REPORTED STATEMENT -- I MEAN HIS EARLY REPORTED
STATEMENT -- WE WOULD REFER QUERIES TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. DID HIS WHITE HOUSE ONE STATEMENT DENY WHAT HE HAD
SAID EARLIER, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

A. I DON'T HAVE IT. I DON'T HAVE THE TEXT OF THE

STATEMENT, BUT IT WAS A CLARIFYING STATEMENT.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE A PLAN WHICH MAY BE
PUT FORWARD NEXT WEEK THAT WOULD INCLUDE SENDING OR
DISPATCHING AMERICAN FORCES TO THE WEST BANK AND
SETTING UP A BASE IN THE SINAI?

A. YOU'LL HAVE TO ADDRESS IT TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. AS A CONCEPT, IS THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERING AS A POSSIBLE OPTION THE STATIONING OF AMERICAN TROOPS ON THE WEST BANK?

A. I CAN'T DEAL WITH IT BECAUSE I'M REFERRING YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THERE IS AN EXPIRY DATE IN THE SINAI II AGREEMENT FOR THE U.S. TROOPS STATIONED IN THE SINAI -- NOT THE TROOPS, THE OBSERVERS?

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A. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q. CAN YOU FIND OUT?

A. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION. (ANSWER PROVIDED: THERE IS NO EXPIRATION DATE).

Q. JUST TO CLARIFY, SO YOU ARE LETTING STAND ANY PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS CONSIDERING STATIONING AMERICAN FORCES ON THE WEST BANK -- YOU'RE LETTING IT STAND, YOU'RE NOT DENYING IT?

A. WHAT I'M DOING IS SAYING THAT JODY POWELL, THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRESIDENT, IS HANDLING THAT QUERY AND YOU SHOULDN'T DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT MY DECLINING TO COMMENT ON IT.

Q. PEOPLE USED TO SAY FROM THIS PODIUM ON THIS SUBJECT, "YES, MAYBE AS A SUPPLEMENTARY ELEMENT, OR AGREEMENT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF CONGRESS, THE UNITED STATES "WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A --"

A. WHAT WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST IS THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO BE HELPFUL --

Q. YOU'VE SAID IN THE PAST WHAT I'VE SAID RIGHT NOW.

A. -- IF THE PARTIES WANTED US TO AND IF IT WERE APPROPRIATE IN A SETTLEMENT. BUT BECAUSE WE'RE TALKING RIGHT NOW ABOUT SPECIFIC REPORTS AND A SPECIFIC QUOTE, THAT'S WHY I'M RELUCTANT TO GO ANY FURTHER ON IT TODAY.

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Q. MY CORRESPONDENTS IN FRANCE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH OFFICIALS THAT ISRAEL IS PLANNING WHAT THEY TERM A "SARAJEVO-STYLE" PROVOCATION IN LEBANON TO TORPEDO THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. DO YOU HAVE SUCH INFORMATION?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION OF WHAT THE SOVIET UNION IS PREPARED TO DO IF ISRAELI FORCES MOVE INTO LEBANON AND ENGAGE SYRIAN FORCES?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON WHAT SORT OF AGREEMENTS ARE BEING WORKED OUT BY SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM ON HIS CURRENT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION?

A. NO.

Q. IF ISRAEL MOVES PRECIPITOUSLY INTO LEBANON TO TORPEDO THE CAMP DAVID MEETING, ARE THEY ON THEIR OWN?

A. WHAT WE SAID YESTERDAY -- AND I REPEAT IT TODAY -- IS TO CALL FOR RESTRAINT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BOTH IN TERMS OF ACTION AND IN TERMS OF RHETORIC. WE WERE NOT POINTING THE FINGER AT ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ANY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY. WE WERE TALKING ABOUT GENERAL RESTRAINT AND A GENERAL DAMPENING OF RHETORIC. I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION, AS MY NEWS SERVICE AND OTHERS DO, THAT BEGIN AND WEIZMAN HAVE OKAYED CHAMOUNISTS' PLANS TO CREATE A SEPARATE MARONITE STATE IN LEBANON?

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A. NO.

Q. WHAT WOULD THE UNITED STATES' RESPONSE BE?

A. IF THAT WERE TO ARISE, I'M SURE THAT WE WOULD HAVE A RESPONSE, BUT I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.

Q. WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED TO US THEIR CONCERN WITH THE APPARENT COMPLACENCY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD CURRENT ISRAELI POSTURE. IS THE WHITE HOUSE BEING BLACKMAILED BY ISRAELI THREATS TO GO TO WAR OR BY WATERGATE-STYLE THREATS FROM ZIONIST-RELATED NETWORKS IN THIS COUNTRY?

A. NO.

Q. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND TWO OF HIS MINISTERS MET TODAY WITH THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV AND WARNED HIM OR ASKED HIM TO ACT IN ORDER TO PREVENT SYRIA FROM USING THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT IN ORDER TO CRUSH DOWN ON THE CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON. DO YOU HAVE ANY KIND OF REACTION ABOUT IT?

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT. CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS.

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NNN

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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SOPN, XF
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